

REMARKS

Dear Sir,

The claimed adaptor is a novel accessory in the pool industry. By way of background, as part of the winterizing process, anti-freeze is poured or pumped into the underground pool pipes. The anti-freeze protects the pipes by preventing residual water from freezing and expanding the pipes. Prior to the present invention, there was no way to efficiently save the anti-freeze when pumped out of the pipes the following spring season. The reason being that the pipe outlets (the return and drain pipe ends bordering the pool wall) are below the pool water level. Until now, the anti-freeze has been wasted because it is pumped from the outlets and into the pool water.

The present invention, as claimed, (1) allows the pipes to be cleared of water and filled with anti-freeze, without lowering the water level when the pool system is winterized; and (2) allows the anti-freeze to be saved when the pool is opened the following spring season. Regarding "(2)", one end of an adaptor is connected to a one-way valve at a pipe outlet and to a hose, such as a garden hose at the opposite end. The anti-freeze may then be pumped through the hose and into a storage container.

New claims 21-41

Independent claim 21 provides:

21. A method for winterizing a swimming pool pipe having anti-freeze therein and having a first end bordering an aperture in a swimming pool wall, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) connecting a one-way valve to the first end of the swimming pool pipe, the one-way valve having an inlet and an outlet;
- b) attaching a first end of a hose adaptor to the one-way valve outlet;
- c) attaching a second end of the hose adaptor to a hose;
- d) pressurizing the anti-freeze within the swimming pool pipe; and

wherein the one-way valve i) opens under the pressure of anti-freeze pumped against the valve inlet, and ii) closes under the pressure of pool water against the valve outlet.

Skarzynski does not disclose a method having the step of (1) connecting a valve to a to a swimming pool pipe, (2) pressurizing anti-freeze within a swimming pool pipe or (3) opening a one-way valve under the pressure of anti-freeze in a pool. The method, including the use of a one-way valve as claimed, is novel and not disclosed in *Skarzynski*. There is no suggestion that the Skarzynski valve may be used in the pool industry for winterizing a swimming pool. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 21 is allowable.

Claims 22-28 are dependent on an allowable independent claim; Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 22-28 are allowable. In addition, the cited references do not disclose the steps of claims 22-28.

Independent claim 29 provides:

29. A swimming pool system comprising:
 - (a) a swimming pool and a swimming pool pipe having a first end bordering an aperture in a wall of the swimming pool;
 - (b) a one-way valve attached to the first end of the swimming pool pipe; and
 - (c) a hose adaptor releasably connected to the one-way valve.

Skarzynski does not disclose a swimming pool, swimming pool pipe, or combining the Skarzynski valve therewith. *Skarzynski* does not disclose a one-way valve attached to a swimming pool pipe. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 29 is allowable.

Claims 30 and 31 are dependent on an allowable independent claim; Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 30 and 31 are allowable. In addition, no cited reference discloses the elements of claims 30 and 31.

Independent claim 32 provides:

32. An apparatus for saving swimming pool pipe anti-freeze, comprising:
 - (a) a one-way valve releasibly attached to a swimming pool pipe bordering an aperture in a swimming pool wall; and
 - (b) a hose adaptor releasibly attached to the one-way valve and attachable to a hose.

Skarzynski does not disclose a one-way valve attached to an aperture in a swimming pool wall. In addition, *Skarzynski* does not disclose a swimming pool or suggest combining the one-way valve with a swimming pool. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 32 is allowable.

Claim 33 is dependent on an allowable independent claim, and is therefore believed allowable. In addition, no cited reference discloses the elements of claim 33.

Independent claim 34 provides:

34. In a swimming pool system having a pipe having anti-freeze therein, a method for saving the anti-freeze, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) connecting a one-way valve to the swimming pool system pipe;
 - (b) providing an adaptor for connection to the one-way valve; and
 - (c) pressurizing the swimming pool system pipe for discharging the anti-freeze.

Skarzynski does not disclose using the valve for saving anti-freeze or suggest combining the valve with a reference disclosing a swimming pool. *Skarzynski* does not disclose connecting a one-way valve to a swimming pool pipe. *Skarzynski* does not disclose pressurizing a swimming pool pipe. Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 34 is allowable.

Claim 35 is dependent on an allowable independent claim, and is therefore believed allowable.

In addition, no cited reference discloses the elements of claim 35.

35 USC 103(a) references:

The Examiner cites *Ishikawa* as disclosing a filter. The new claims do not recite a filter as a claim element or the use of a filter in a method claim.

The Examiner cites *Henderson* and *Wass* for the materials recited in the previously examined claims. The new claims do not recite structure composed of a particular material.

Applicant believes that the 35 USC 103(a) references are not applicable to the new claims.

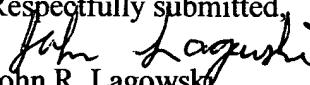
No new matter has been introduced in new claims 21-35. The new claims, as a general matter, are directed at a swimming pool system (¶ 0001 to 0006, et al.) and an adaptor (¶ 0033 to 0036, et al.). The method claim steps are also disclosed in the application as filed.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance, and it is requested that it now be allowed.

Should the Examiner be of the opinion that amendments to the claims or further response is required, applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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